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**Meeting Minutes March 14, 2019 (Draft V4)
Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont, PA**

1. Meeting Attendees:
 - a. Board: (12) Gordon Conn, Rob Cronauer, Tom Dittman, Rick Fisher, Ted Hayes, Jack Maher, John Nagoda, Bill O'Hara, Rey Peduzzi, Jeff Richards, Tom Ronksley, John Sopko – Malcolm Sias, Westmoreland Co. Parks and Recreation
 - b. Guests: Shaun Blackham, Kevin Bohner, Christopher Corbran, Wendy Davis, Chad Emahizer, Ginny Hayes, Cedric Keith, Michael Landi, Chris Leo, Dee O'Hara, Carol Richardson, Art Venus, and others
2. In the absence of President Rudge and Vice President Cronauer, Treasurer Jack Maher led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance", and then called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
3. President's Comments – None
4. Vice President Rob Cronauer arrived at 7:09 p.m. to the relief of Treasurer Jack Maher and began presiding over the meeting
5. Introductions – Eagle Scout Candidate Art Venus from Venture Crew 220, Murrysville, PA was introduced by Jeff Richards.
6. Public Input
 - a. Art Venus presented his Eagle Scout Project.
 - i. Obtain and plant 14 trees along the trail from Rutledge Auto Service east toward Saunders Station Parking Access
 - ii. The trees will be a mix of deciduous, fruit, and evergreens.
 - iii. Trees will be approximately 25' feet apart
 - iv. Project Cost is estimated at \$2,398.00
 - v. Art will sponsor fund raising events and seek grant monies.
 - b. A motion to have Treasurer Jack Maher initiate a separate line item to track the monies and fund the project not to exceed \$500 was made by Sopko, 2nd by Sias, Motion Passed.
7. Approval of Minutes - A motion was made to approve the March 14th minutes as published by Dittman, 2nd by Hayes, Motion carried, minutes approved.
8. Treasurer's Report – Jack Maher
 - a. Treasurer Maher, reported \$63,949.61 in total assets.
 - b. Treasurer Maher reported that the S&T Checking Account has \$44,574.87 as essentially "Cash on Hand" with the Comedy Night expenses still outstanding.
 - c. Comedy Night
 - i. Costs were up, Ticket sales were up and sponsorships were up.
 - ii. Comedy Night receipts - \$17,925.00 (incomplete)
 - iii. Comedy Night expenses – 7,174.91 (incomplete)

- iv. Comedy Night Profit will be shared with our partner, The Five Star Trail.
- d. A HUGE WHT Thank You to Rob Cronauer and his crew for organizing this year's record breaking Comedy Night.
- e. A motion was made to approve the Trail Truck Insurance of \$410.00 by Dittman, 2nd by Fisher, Motion carried, Payment approved.
- f. A motion to approve the treasurer's report by Richards, 2nd by Conn, Motion carried, report approved.

9. RTC Report – None

10. TAT Report – None

11. Committee Reports

a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias

i. Norfolk Southern Property

1. A proposal has been sent to Norfolk Southern RR, with a land survey, to purchase the 7.2 acres (1500 feet of trail) that would allow the WHT to be extended into downtown Trafford.
2. Norfolk Southern would also vacate the Stewart Station Drive RR crossing and that would be a trail end point.
3. An appraisal of the Fair Market Value of the Property is expected April 10th for submission to Norfolk Southern.
4. If a grant application to DCNR can be prepared and submitted, grant monies could fund one half the purchase price with grass roots fundraising the remainder.

ii. "The Middle Gap"; Four miles from Delmont to Export Trail Property Acquisition

1. Great Oak Energy is willing to consider an offer to sell about three quarters of a mile of property west of Route 66 to the trail. Property is being assessed.
2. Negotiations on one half mile of original rail bed are ongoing with Export Tire Co.
3. Other parcels are "in the works".

b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards

- i. Progress meetings with Plum Construction for Phase IV have begun and will occur every two weeks.
- ii. Plum Construction has started clearing and "grubbing", installing cross culverts and has set centerline marker stakes. All work currently is "weather dependant".
- iii. Stream Bank Stabilization

1. The Westmoreland Conservation District, with funding from PA DEP and PA DCNR will be stabilizing the stream bank close to the trail at six sites.
2. 600 to 700 ton of rock will be used for the project that is expected to take two weeks.

- iv. The Bridge near the Rivertowne Brewery - A HUGE WHT Thank You to the many volunteers that helped complete this bridge renovation project.
 - v. The Cub Scouts of Harrison City have requested some Trail Improvement project suggestions for their Pack.
 - vi. A “Ground Breaking” celebration for the beginning of Phase IV Construction has been put aside in favor of a Gala Phase IV Completion Celebration possibly to be held in conjunction with the Export Ethnic Food and Music Festival in August.
 - vii. A HUGE WHT Thank You to Jeff Richards for “bird dogging” the Grant Funding and getting the “Cash” to spend in a timely manner. Receiving an approved Grant is one thing; actually getting the monies to spend is another matter!
 - viii. A Pedestrian Bridge connecting Valley Park, Aber Creek Rd, Monroeville over Turtle Creek to the WHT Trail.
 - 1. The Municipality of Monroeville is actively seeking Grant monies.
 - 2. The project will include a pavilion, rest rooms, bike racks and 25 parking spots.
 - 3. A motion to write a WHT Trial “Letter of Support” for the project was made by Richards, 2nd Maher, motion carried.
- c. Funding Raising
- i. March for Parks
 - 1. A Pop-Up Used Bike Shop will again sell refurbished bikes and equipment as a fund raiser. Please drop off any bikes you may have at Monroeville ProBike + Run, 4030 William Penn Hwy from Mon-Fri 10am—8pm, Sat. 10am—6pm, and Sun noon-5pm
 - 2. Malcolm Sias stressed the need for Volunteers to make MFP successful. He distributed a “duty roster” (attached) of current volunteers and stressed the need for additional volunteers.
 - 3. Malcolm stated there will be Breakfast and Lunch and clean up volunteers are needed after the event closes.
 - 4. With the retirement of past WHT Team captain, Chris Droste, Alyssa Harden volunteered (in abstentia) to Captain this years team, “The WHT Trailers”.
- d. Public Relations – John Sopko for Vicki Rudge
- i. Facebook followers have peaked over 1300.
 - ii. Trail Towns Festival “in progress mode”.
 - 1. There will be a meeting for all communities to attend in moving forward with this June 1st Event.
 - 2. Meeting will be held at the Lamplighter on Thursday, April 4th, 7:00 p.m. Each of our WHT Trail Representatives for their community should attend.
 - iii. The WHT google.my.maps Historical Marker project.
 - 1. Karen Cercone presented a list of 20+ Markers for consideration (attached) and asked for additional suggestions.

2. Karen also presented a design for the physical marker and estimated the cost to be in the \$200.00 range each. A discussion ensued to improve the design and reduce cost.
 3. Karen will be applying for a Grant to fund the markers and will report in the future, costs and final design.
- e. Membership – Gordon Conn.
 - i. Gordon reported that the 2019 membership drive is going well with over 118 members to date.
 - ii. Gordon has set an ambitious goal for over 200 members this year. Please encourage your family, friends, and associates.
 - f. Trail Ambassadors (Monitors) – No Report
 - g. Trail Maintenance – Tom Dittman
 - i. A WHT Thank You to Bill O’Hara and Ted Hays for quickly clearing the trail from Saltsburg to Slickville.
 - ii. A rockslide on the side of the trail near the Franklin Township Sewage Plant will be cleared by the Municipality of Murrysville.
 - iii. A “trash Clean-up” Party is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. March 16th meeting at Robert’s Parcel, Murrysville.

12. Old Business

- a. The topic of Personal Memorial Gardens remained tabled.
- b. The topic of Memorial Trees remained tabled.
- c. Rey Peduzzi was charged with determining the cost of a Ten-Year Milepost Marker considering maintenance and possible vandalism.

13. New Business

- a. Forbes Road Port-O-John
 - i. The Creamery and The Kick-Stand Café are complaining that trail users are using their restroom facilities without patronizing their business.
 - ii. Malcolm Sias reported a Port-O-John will be placed at Forbes Road for the next 5 months as per our contract with the Port-O-John supplier.
 - iii. Rey Peduzzi volunteered to place signage advertising the Public Restroom Facilities at B-Y Park.
- b. Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC)
 - i. Christopher Corbran, Program Communications Coordinator, requested the floor to speak of PEC upcoming programs.
 - ii. The programs are in conjunction with DCNR.
 - iii. Mid-Atlantic Greenways and Trail Summit, April 4-6, Philadelphia, PA
 - iv. Pennsylvania Mountain Bike Summit, May 10th, Raystown Lake.
 - v. Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference, May 16 -18, Skytop Lodge, Pocono.
 - vi. Chris also mentioned, Cindy Dunn, Secretary DCNR spoke accolades of the WHT at their last joint session.

On a motion by Maher, 2nd O’Hara, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

The next meeting will be on April 11th. Location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sopko, 2019 Secretary

Attachments:

VOLUNTEER MATRIX – MARCH FOR PARKS 2018 (3.15.18)

Registration (8) Handle participant registrations, verify donations, issue tickets for lunch and shirts. Arrive by 8:00 am to begin at 8:30 am.

Ann Wade; Charlie & Donna Beard; Ron & Lauren Gdovic Wendy Davis, Susan Karas

Final Count/Office (3-4) Final totals of all funds and entry into computer by teams/individuals

Patti Sias, Katie Ulishney, Molly Maga and Monica DeFloria

Registration Coordinator (1) Directs pedestrian traffic at registration & makes sure forms are completed by each participant.

Chad Emuhizer

T-Shirt Distribution (3-4) Collects t-shirt card and distributes t-shirts to participants.

Cub Scouts and Parents

Greeter (1-2) Welcomes participants and directs them to registration. Meets sponsors, etc and directs them to their assigned area. Assists with overall set up and organization.

Betsy Aiken, Jeff Richards

Parking Attendants (4) Coordinates parking at the site in various parking areas and provides direction and safety controls for Marchers.

Rey Peduzzi and Crew, Bill O'Hara, Ted Hayes, Hub Cole, Stan Rudge

Basket Raffles (2) Sell tickets on raffle baskets, pull ticket winners.

Dee O'Hara, Ginny Hayes

50-50 Ticket Sales (1-2) Sell 50-50 tickets while roaming the site.

John Hynes; Vi Hynes

Team Photos (2) Coordinate team photos and take a photo of each team present.

John Sopko

Bird House Decorating
Penn State Volunteers

Eileen Flicker, Kelly Snoznik's daughter 1-2 H.S. or

List of Potential WHT Locations for Historical Plaques

Trafford Section

1. Linde Air Plant
2. George Westinghouse Railroad
3. Trafford Brickyard
4. Saunders Station
- 5.

Murrysville Section

6. Murrysville Gas Well
7. Washington's Camp
8. Mine Safety Appliance
9. Murrysville Tree Sign
- 10.

Export Section

11. Export Coal Mines
12. Trees Mills Coal Patch
13. Other Historic Buildings?
- 14.
- 15.

Delmont Section

16. Delmont Coal Mines
17. Beaver Run Reservoir
18. Early Stagecoach Lines? 14.
- 19.
- 20.

Slickville Section

21. Slickville Coal Company Store
22. Former Coal Company Jail?
23. Irwin Gas Goal Fields
- 24.
- 25.

Saltsburg Section

26. Conemaugh Salt Works
27. Pennsylvania Mainline Canal
28. Loyalhanna Reservoir
- 29.
- 30.

